

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for activating speech recognition in a terminal, comprising the

steps of:

(a) detecting an event at the terminal;

(b) performing a first command in response to the event of step (a);

(c) automatically activating speech recognition at the terminal in response to said step (a);

(d) determining whether a second command is received via one of speech recognition and the primary input during a speech recognition time period commenced upon a completion of said step (b);

(e) deactivating speech recognition at the terminal and determining whether the second command is received via the primary input if it is determined that the second command is not received in said step (d) during the speech recognition time period; and

(f) performing the second command received in one of said steps (d) and (e).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises detecting one of a use of a primary input of the terminal, receipt of information at the terminal from the environment of the terminal, and notification of an external event.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (c) further comprises
2 determining a context in which speech recognition is activated and determining a word set of
3 applicable commands in that context.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the word set determined in said step (c)
2 comprises a default word set comprising commands that are applicable in all contexts.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said step (c) further comprises
2 displaying at least a portion of the applicable commands of the word set.

1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein said step (c) further comprises audibly
2 outputting the applicable commands of the word set.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (f) further comprises verifying
2 that the second command received via speech recognition is correct.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (c) further comprises
2 displaying at least a portion of the applicable commands of the word set.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (c) further comprises audibly
2 outputting the applicable commands of the word set.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (d) further comprises receiving
2 at least one second command via speech recognition during the speech recognition time period
3 and saving said at least one second command in a command buffer.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said step (f) comprises performing
2 each command of said at least one second command in said command buffer.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of (g) repeating said
2 steps (c)-(f) in response to the command last performed in said step (f).

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating said
2 steps (c)-(f) for the command last performed in said step (f).

1 14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of repeating said
2 steps (c) - (f) in response to the last command performed by said step (f) if it is determined that
3 the last command performed in said step (f) is an input defined to activate speech recognition.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining
2 whether the first command input in said step (a) is a command defined to activate speech
3 recognition and wherein said steps (b) - (d) are performed only if it is determined that the first
4 command performed in said step (a) is an action defined to activate speech recognition.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises pressing a
2 button.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises pressing a button
2 on a mobile phone.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises pressing a button
2 on a personal digital assistant.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the terminal is a wearable computer
2 with a context-aware application and said step (a) comprises receiving information from the
3 environment of the wearable computer.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the information is that an object in the
2 environment has been selected.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the second command is an open
2 command for accessing information about the selected object.

1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises receiving a
2 notification from an external source.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the notification is one of a phone call
2 and a short message.

1 24. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises connecting to
2 one of a local access point and a local area network via short range radio technology.

1 25. The method of claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises receiving
2 information at the terminal from the computer environment of the terminal.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein said step (a) comprises connecting to a
2 site on the internet.

1 27. A terminal capable of speech recognition, comprising:
2 a central processing unit;
3 a memory unit connected to said central processing unit;
4 a primary input connected to said central processing unit for receiving inputted
5 commands;
6 a secondary input connected to said central processing unit for receiving audible
7 commands;
8 a speech recognition algorithm connected to said central processing unit for
9 executing speech recognition; and
10 a primary control circuit connected to said central processing unit for processing
11 said inputted and audible commands and activating speech recognition in response to an event
12 for a speech recognition time period and deactivating speech recognition after the speech
13 recognition time period has elapsed.

1 28. The terminal of claim 27, wherein said event comprises one of a use of a
2 primary input of the terminal, receipt of information from the environment of the terminal, and
3 notification of an external event.

1 29. The terminal of claim 27, further comprising a word set database
2 connected to said central processing unit and a secondary control circuit connected to said

3 central processing unit for determining a context in which the speech recognition is activated
4 and determining a word set of applicable commands in said context from said word set
5 database.

1 30. The terminal of claim 29, further comprising a display for displaying at
2 least a portion of said word set.

1 31. The terminal of claim 27, wherein said primary input comprises buttons.

1 32. The terminal of claim 31, wherein said terminal comprises a mobile
2 phone.

1 33. The terminal of claim 31, wherein said terminal comprises a personal
2 digital assistant.

1 34. The terminal of claim 27, wherein said terminal comprises a wearable
2 computer.

1 35. The terminal of claim 34, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to a selection of an
3 object in an environment of said wearable computer.

1 36. The terminal of claim 27, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to receiving
3 notification of one of a phone call and a short message at said terminal.

1 37. The method of claim 27, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to connecting said
3 terminal to one of a local access point and a local area network via short range radio
4 technology.

1 38. The method of claim 27, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to receiving
3 information at said terminal from a computer environment of said terminal.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to connecting said
3 terminal to a site on the internet.

1 40. A system for activating speech recognition in a terminal, comprising:
2 a central processing unit;
3 a memory unit connected to said processing unit;
4 a primary input connected to said central processing unit for receiving inputted
5 commands;
6 a secondary input connected to said central processing unit for receiving audible
7 commands;
8 a speech recognition algorithm connected to said central processing unit for
9 executing speech recognition; and

10 software means operative on the processor for maintaining in said memory unit
11 a database identifying at least one context related word set, scanning for an event at the
12 terminal, performing a first command in response to the event, activating speech recognition
13 by executing said speech recognition algorithm for a speech recognition time period in
14 response to detecting said event at said terminal, deactivating speech recognition after the
15 speech recognition time period has elapsed, and performing a second command received during
16 said speech recognition time.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein said event comprises one of a use of a
primary input of the terminal, receipt of information from the environment of the terminal, and
notification of an external event.

42. The terminal of claim 40, wherein said means for activating speech
recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to a selection of an
object in an environment of said wearable computer.

43. The terminal of claim 40, wherein said means for activating speech
recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to receiving
notification of one of a phone call and a short message at said terminal.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein said means for activating speech
recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to connecting said

3 terminal to one of a local access point and a local area network via short range radio
4 technology.

1 45. The method of claim 40, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to receiving
3 information at said terminal from a computer environment of said terminal.

1 46. The method of claim 45, wherein said means for activating speech
2 recognition comprises means for activating speech recognition in response to connecting said
3 terminal to a site on the internet.